focus

fo•cus (fō´kəs): a center of interest and activity Nov./Dec. 1996

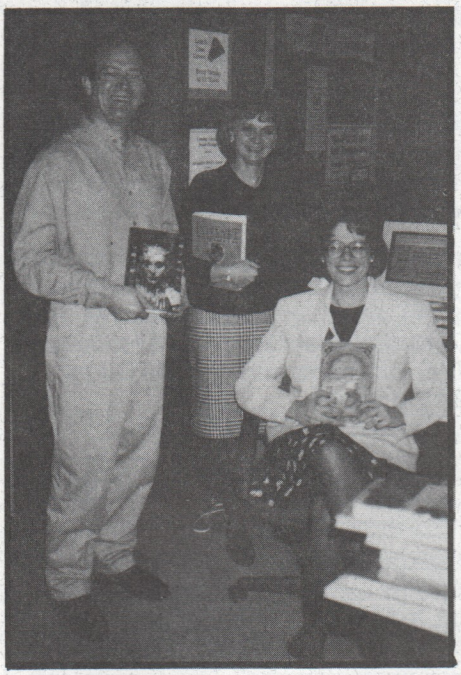
Morton Grove Public Library

Make Every Night a Family Reading Night

Each November, National Children's Book Week (November 18 - 24) is dedicated to spreading the word about children's literature and encouraging the joys of reading. Secretary of State and State Librarian George Ryan invites you to join other families in the fifth annual celebration of **Family Reading Night** on **Thursday, November 21.** Turn off the TV for the evening and make a special point of reading to each other, whether it's the newspaper, a magazine article or a book. "Family reading is a key element for advancing children's language and literacy skills," says Ryan. Reading aloud gives both parents and children valuable time together as well as introduces new worlds and nuturing imagination. Of course, the MGPL children's librarians have plenty of suggestions, if you need an idea for a good book. See page 3 for a few of their favorite read-alouds. Start reading aloud today with 15 minutes a day and you won't be able to stop after just one book! And join us at the Library to celebrate Children's Book Week with the Junior League of Chicago's Mad Hatters program **Saturday, November 23 at 12:30 p.m.** followed by a do-it-together craft.

Reader's Service Helps You Find a Good Book

In addition to the Circulation Desk and the Reference Desk, you may often find yourself referred to the Reader's Service's Desk in the center of the Library. Three of the staff members who can help you find the book you're looking for are introduced here.



RS staff members display favorite titles: Eric Robbins (Bruce Sterling's *Holy Fire*) , Natalya Fishman (Daniel Dern's *The Internet Guide for New Users*), and Roberta Johnson (Dorothy Dunnett's *Scales of Gold*).

Natalya Fishman has just started at Reader's Service, but she is a familiar face, having worked at MGPL for nearly five years in Children's, Circulation, and Interlibrary Loan. Natalya earned her Master's in Library Science in Belarus, and now lives in Skokie with her husband and two children. Some of her favorite authors are Heinrich Boll, E. Doctorow and Arthur Hailey.

Roberta Johnson leads the monthly book discussion group and New Books Showcase. Recently, she won the Jane O'Brien award from the Illinois Library Association and is working on her Master's in Library and Information Science at Rosary College. Roberta is an avid reader and particularly enjoys science fiction and historical fiction. She lives in Skokie with her husband and son.

Eric Robbins is also attending Rosary for his Master's. He lives in Morton Grove with his wife and two children. "I don't like to read, I *love* to read. If it has words in sentences, I'll read it, but I do have a special fondness for science fiction," says Eric.

Put these programs on your calendar, see page 2!

The Agape Ringers

The Agape Ringers to perform at MGPL

The Agape Ringers will bring the magnificent sound of their bells to the Library on **Sunday, December 8 at 3:30 p.m.** for a special holiday concert. Under the direction of David Weck, the ringers have performed for national conferences. Come early for a seat!

MGPL Hours

Mon.-Thurs. 9 - 9
Fri. 9 - 6, Sat. 9 - 5
Sun. (Sept.-May) 1 - 5

Closed Nov. 28, Dec. 13, 24, 25. Close at 5 p.m. Dec. 31.

Mark your calendar!

All programs are free of charge and open to everyone.

Calendar Summary

November			
11/2	Sa	1:00	Genealogy Workshop
11/3	Su	2:00	Concert: *Songs of Love & Life*
11/5	Tu	11:30	Lunch Time Movies
11/8	Fr	10:00	New Books Showcase
11/11	Mo	11:00, 2:30 & 7:00	Feature Film: *Phenomenon* (PG, 123 min.)
11/12	Tu	11:30	Lunch Time Movies
11/14	Th	7:45	Library Board Meeting
11/16	Sa	10:00	Financial Survival During Your Job Search
11/17	Su	2:00	Lyric Opera Lecture: *Salome*
11/18 - 24			Children's Book Week
11/19	Tu	11:30	Lunch Time Movies
11/20	We	7:00	Slide/Lecture: *Degas*
11/21			Family Reading Night
11/23	Sa	12:30	Mad Hatters
11/26	Tu	11:30	Lunch Time Movies
11/26	Tu	7:30	Book Discussion Group: *The Cunning Man* by Robertson Davies
11/28	Th		Library Closed for Thanksgiving
December			
12/3	Tu	11:30	Lunch Time Movies
12/8	Su	3:30	Concert: *The Agape Ringers*
12/10	Tu	11:30	Lunch Time Movies
12/12	Th	7:45	Library Board Meeting
12/13	Fr		Library Closed for Staff Development Day
12/16	Mo	11:00 2:30, 7:00	Feature Film: *Kansas City* (R, 110 min.)
12/17	Tu	11:30	Lunch Time Movies
12/24	Tu		Library Closed for Christmas Eve
12/25	We		Library Closed for Christmas
12/31	Tu	11:30	Lunch Time Movies
12/31	Tu		Library Closes at 5:00

All programs held at the Library are free of charge and open to everyone. For more information, or for mobility and communication access assistance, please call the Library at (847) 965-4220, TDD 965-4236.

Programs

November

Beginning Genealogy Workshop – Reference Coordinator Terry Beck introduces local resources for getting started, explains how to organize your information, and discusses doing a genealogy with or without a computer. Terry has traced her own family history to the 1500s on one side. "It's always fun finding a scandal in the family," she says, without saying what she's uncovered! This two-hour workshop is limited to 20 people. Please register by calling 965-4220 or stopping at the Reader's Service Desk. **Saturday, November 2 at 1 p.m.**

Songs of Love & Life: Popular Music form 1890 - World War I Mezzo Soprano and Morton Grove resident Peggy Prielozny performs turn-of-the-century music that will make everyone feel nostalgic. Dressed in period costume and accompanied by a pianist, Prielozny will sing favorites such as "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling" and "Ida, Sweet as Apple Cider." **Sunday, November 3 at 2 p.m.**

Financial Survival During Your Job Search – Townsend Albright, author of *How to Hold It All Together When You've Lost Your Job*, presents his survival tactics for those who are facing unemployment and need to find fresh resources for staying afloat. Albright kept his two college-age children, North Shore mortgage and installment debt financially sound by researching and using every possible public financial resource. **Saturday, November 16 at 10 a.m.**

Lyric Opera Lecture: *Salome* – Roy Fisher of the Lyric Opera Lecture Corps highlights the Strauss story of Salome, who demands the head of John the Baptist on a silver platter and will not stop until she has it! **Sunday, November 17 at 2 p.m.**

The Aristocratic and Very Artistic Edgar Degas – The Art Institute of Chicago is currently featuring an exhibition of works from the last 30 years of Degas' life, when his artwork became drastically different. Lee Gibbs returns to the Library with her slide presentation and narrative of the life, influences and work of Degas. **Wednesday, November 20 at 7 p.m.**

December

The Agape Ringers – Enjoy the sound of an English handbell ensemble during this special holiday concert. See page one for story. **Sunday, December 8 at 3:30 p.m.**

Please note the following special hours during December.

Friday, December 13 Library closed for Staff Development Day. This day allows the staff to participate in workshops and activities as a group, building a team spirit.

Tuesday, December 24 Library closed for Christmas Eve.

Wednesday, December 25 Library closed for Christmas Day.

Tuesday, December 31 Library open 9 - 5 for New Year's Eve.

Wednesday, January 1 Library closed for New Year's Day.

Kids Programs

Mad Hatters Tip Their Caps for Children's Book Week at MGPL

The Mad Hatters, a group which encourages children to read, will entertain at the Library in honor of Children's Book Week on **Saturday, November 23 at 12:30 p.m.** Using only hats as props, the energetic group tells stories and poems and challenges children to listen, think and remember.

The 30-minute program is geared for children ages 3 - 10 and children are invited to wear their favorite hat.

Sponsored by the Junior League of Chicago, the Mad Hatters have been entertaining children and encouraging reading in the Chicagoland area for 25 years.

Following the Mad Hatters program, children and adults are invited to stay for refreshments and to make a craft together celebrating Children's Book Week.

Favorite Read-Alouds From Children's Librarians for Family Reading Night

MGPL Children's Librarian Joan Gross and Assistant Children's Librarian Ronnie Rund had a tough assignment in listing a few of their favorite read-alouds for Family Reading Night (see story, page one).

These are their favorites along with some helpful hints in reading aloud:
Tales of a Fourth-Grade Nothing - Judy Blume
Stellaluna - Janet Cannon
The Great Brain - John D. Fitzgerald
Corduroy - Don Freeman
Beauty, Brave and Beautiful - Dick Gackenbach
In the Rain with Baby Duck - Amy Hest
Officer Buckle and Gloria - Peggy Rathman
Coyote Steals the Blanket or *Tops and Bottoms* - Janet Stevens

Get comfortable and read something that you enjoy. Props help; for example, sit under an umbrella with a rubber duckie when you read *In the Rain with Baby Duck.* Try an occasional picture book even for older children who may enjoy the change of pace.

Learn about the author so you can share interesting facts with your child. The Children's Department staff can help you find those tidbits and recommend plenty of other great books. Don't forget to make **November 21** (and every night!) your **Family Reading Night.**

Children's Classes

Winter session begins the week of January 6, 1997. Registration starts December 16 for Morton Grove residents and December 23 for non-residents.

Library Playtime for 2 1/2 Year Olds & Parents
Please choose one of the following:
Thursday 10:30 am
Friday 10:30 am
Class limit – 12 children, 12 parents

Pre-School Storytime
Please choose one of the following times for ages 3-Kindergarten:
Monday 1:00 pm
Tuesday 1:00 pm
Wednesday 10:00 am
Thursday 6:45 pm
Class limit – 30

Stories & Stuff
Grades 1-2
Monday 7:00pm
Class limit – 12

Arts & Crafts
Grades 1-3 Mon. 4:00 pm
Grades 4-6 Fri. 4:00 pm
Class limit – 15

Creative Writing
Please choose one of the following:
Grades 2-6
Wed. or Thurs. 4:00 pm
Class limit - 40

Phone registration will be taken after 9:30 a.m.

If You Can Read This Headline, Literacy Volunteers Needs Your Help

Each day, we read newspapers, street signs, menus, bedtime stories and countless other printed pieces. But more than 4 million adults in Illinois have difficulty reading. Many of these adults are parents who don't know the joy of reading to their children.

More than 70 literacy tutoring programs in the Chicagoland area are trying to help, but there is a shortage of volunteers. Thousands of adults are on waiting lists because of this shortage.

If you have some free time, volunteer to be a reading tutor by calling the Oakton District Public Libraries Literacy Coalition at (847) 635-1426.

Films

November

Phenomenon (PG 123 min) When George Malley (John Travolta) is struck by a blinding flash of light on his 37th birthday, he finds that he's the smartest man in the world . **Mon. 11/11, 11:00, 2:30 and 7:00**

December

Kansas City (R 110 min) Set in 1934, this Robert Altman film plays up the political bosses and swinging jazz clubs of Depression-era Kansas City. Harry Belafonte, Jennifer Jason Leigh and Miranda Richardson are the key players. **Mon. 12/16, 11:00, 2:30 & 7:00**

Movie Monitors Needed

Do you regularly attend one of the feature film showings? The Library needs your help as a volunteer movie monitor during the show. The job is easy and you can still watch the film! Call Kate for the details: 965-4220.

Library Favorites

Lunch Time Movies

Pack a brown-bag lunch and head to the Library every **Tuesday at 11:30 a.m.** for Lunch Time Movies. Travel to faraway places, listen to thought-provoking discussions or meet historical figures during this 1½ hour video program.

New Books Showcase

Beyond the latest bestsellers, the Library staff presents New Books Showcase the second Friday of each month. Join us for a look at what's new. If you can't make it, pick up a list of titles at the Library or visit the New Books Showcase at our Virtual Reader's Service Desk on the Web: http://www.nslsilus.org/mgkhome/mgpl/rsdesk.html

Friday 11/8 at 10 a.m. New Books Showcase will not be held in December.

Book Discussion Group

Thinking Out Loud, the Library's book discussion group, meets **Nov. 26** for *The Cunning Man* by Robertson Davies. Roberta Johnson leads the group which meets the **fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Thinking Out Loud will not meet in December.**

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Reference Round-up

The winter months bring many of us inside. As we cuddle up and become "couch potatoes" we start watching more movies, and this leads to questions about performers, directors, and films. When you have a favorite film and want to see other films like it, where do you turn? A new resource in the Reference Room is **Seen That, Now What?: The Ultimate Guide to Finding the Video You Really Want to Watch.** The author has developed more than 400 categories, with notes and a most unique rating system: classic, gold standard, visual treats, camp films, and deserves attention. You won't lack for choices, since she covers both U.S. and selected foreign films.

And after you've had your fill of video, think about reading a book or play that formed the basis for the film. **Enser's Filmed Books and Plays, 1928 - 1991** has become a standard reference tool for many librarians. You will be able to find the source material using the film title, author, or book title (if it isn't the same as the film title.) No more frantic scribbling as the credits roll past!

And for real movie buffs, there is an Internet Web site that will provide an hour or two of delightful searching. **The Inernet Movie Database** (http://www.imdb.com/) allows you to search for biographical information about a performer or director; choose a movie by title, genre, or year; follow links to various studios and production companies; or just enjoy surfing through the movies and the memories.

Is that unanswered question keeping you awake at 2 a.m.? Get up and call the Library! Send your reference question by e-mail to the Library staff anytime, day or night. The address is **refdesk@mgk.nslsilus.org** and we'll answer it promptly, during business hours.

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